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member restricting deformation of the anchor member when connected thereto to
restrict the anchor member from being removed from the dirty air outlet.

Please cancel claims 19, 27, 34.

REMARKS

Claims 5-20 are pending in the application. In the office action dated January 17, 2002, the Examiner took the following action: (1) reminded applicant that all subject matter added to the original patent must be underlined in their entirety; (2) advised applicant to include in the reissue all changes made by the certificate of correction; (3) rejected claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being improperly broadened in a reissue application made and sworn to by the assignee and not the patentee; (4) rejected claims 35-40 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being an improper recapture of broadened claimed subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the reissue is based; (5) rejected claims 15-17, 20, 24, 25, 28 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by any one of Johansson (3,933,451, Crener (4,274,847), Kuplas (4,539,026) and Marafante (5,230,724); (6) objected to claims 18, 19, 21-23, 26, 27 and 29-33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; and (7) allowed claims 1-14 and 41 if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C 251. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. *Reminder to applicant that all subject matter added to the original patent must be underlined in their entirety.*

Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful suggestions and recommendations for corrections of Applicants oversight.

II. *Advisement to applicant to include in the reissue all changes made by the certificate of correction.*

Applicant has corrected claim 14 to reflect the 27 February 2001 certificate of correction.

III. Rejection of claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being improperly broadened in a reissue application made and sworn to by the assignee and not the patentee.

Applicant has included in this response signed declarations from the inventors Charles Malone and William Fish.

IV. Rejection of claims 35-40 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being an improper recapture of broadened claimed subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the reissue is based.

Claim 35 has been amended to include the "nozzle" as recited in the original patent.

V. Rejection of claims 15-17, 20, 24, 25, 28 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by any one of Johansson (3,933,451, Crener (4,274,847), Kuplas (4,539,026) and Marafante (5,230,724).

Claims 15 and 24 have been amended to incorporate the recess in the bag collar as originally recited in claims 19 and 27. Claim 34 has been canceled.

VI. Objection to claims 18, 19, 21-23, 26, 27 and 29-33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants believe claims 15 and 24 are now in condition for allowance making claims 18, 19, 21-23, 26, 27 and 29-33 dependent upon allowable base claims.

VII. Allowance of claims 1-14 and 41 if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C 251.

Applicants believe that all rejections base on 35 U.S.C. 251 have been corrected.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicant believes that existing claims 1-18, 20-26, 28-33 and 35-42 are in condition for allowance, and that action is respectfully requested. In accordance 37 CFR § 1.121, attached hereto is a page entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" showing the specific changes made to the claims by the current amendment. If there are any remaining matters that can be handled in a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney, Curtis J. Ollila, at (303) 546-1383.

Respectfully submitted,

Faegre & Benson LLP

Date: 1/9/03



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

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Please amend claims 15, 24 and 35 as follows:

15. (Amended) A vacuum cleaner bag comprising:
an air-permeable bag having an opening; and
a collar attached to the bag surrounding the opening, the collar having an end edge, a first side edge, a second side edge opposing the first side edge, an orientation surface, and **a recess adjacent the end edge,**
wherein the first and second side edges are in a generally vertical orientation during use, the end edge is in a generally horizontal orientation during use, the first and second side edges are free from the bag, the orientation surface comprises an angled surface extending from the first side edge to the end edge, and the orientation surface is adapted to orient the opening of the bag.

24. (Amended) A bag for receipt in a mounting member having a channel and a first orientation surface, the bag comprising:
an air-permeable bag having an opening; and
a collar attached to said bag surrounding said opening, said collar having an end edge, **a recess adjacent said end edge for surrounding a retainer member of the mounting member,** a first side edge, a second side edge opposing said first side edge, and a second orientation surface, said second orientation surface extending from said first side edge to said end edge, said second orientation surface being complementary to the first orientation surface of the mounting member,
wherein said second orientation surface is adapted to orient said opening of said bag upon contact with the first orientation surface of the mounting member.

35. (Amended) A vacuum cleaner assembly comprising;
a dirty air outlet **nozzle;**

a vacuum bag having a substantially rigid collar surrounding a bag opening;

a bag docking assembly mounted adjacent the dirty air outlet, the bag docking assembly comprising:

an anchor member having a central opening for closely, releasably receiving the dirty air outlet, the anchor member being sufficiently deformable to permit the central opening to be engaged with or removed from the dirty air outlet, and

a mounting member releasably connected to the anchor member and movable between a loading position in which the vacuum bag is inserted into or removed from the mounting member and a working position in which an opening in the vacuum bag engages the dirty air outlet, the mounting member restricting deformation of the anchor member when connected thereto to restrict the anchor member from being removed from the dirty air outlet.